The Silent Conversation

The Silent Conversation gives students an opportunity to reflect on what they know about a given topic or in response to a question. It also provides an opportunity to assess prior knowledge, to activate prior knowldege and to identify misconceptions.

1. Students choose a marker color to use for the activity. They must use only the color marker they chose.

2. Give each group a large sheet of white paper.

3. One student draws a football-sized oval in the center of the paper and copies the term or the question in the center of the oval.

4. Students draw lines out to the sides of the oval and write, without talking, anything they know or think about the term or question, one response per line.

5. After 5 minutes, students may respond to each others’ responses by drawing a line out to the side of the response and adding their comments with their color marker.

6. The teacher is able to move around the room observing the responses and comments.

7. The color identifies which student wrote the response or comment.

8. A gallery walk may be conducted to allow students to read other groups responses and comments.